

HURRICANE
FLORENCE
2018

CATEGORY 4 MAJOR HURRICANE
HIGHEST WINDS: 150 MPH
LOWEST PRESSURE: 937 MBAR

Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Classroom grant funding

K-12 classroom teachers have until Sept. 15 to submit applications for 2023-2024 Bright Ideas grant funds. Individual awards up to \$2,500 per project will be announced by Nov. 1.

Read more on page H.



Youth Tour in her own words

This month, Tideland Youth Tour representative Heather Rogers of Plymouth gives a first-person account of her weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., with electric cooperative ambassadors from across North Carolina and the nation.

Applications for the 2024 Youth Tour will be open beginning December 2023.

Read more starting on page F





Debris piles can pose repair challenges

One unique challenge presented by Hurricane Florence in the days and weeks following were debris piles on top of underground utilities. On numerous occasions, repairing an underground line first required that utility crews dig through flooded construction materials and a variety of household items to reach the repair site.

In communities like Fairfield Harbour, which was hardest hit by Hurricane Florence, it is difficult to find a debris pile location that doesn't impact the utility right-of-way. Therefore, no real alternative may exist. Nevertheless, it was another reminder that all storms present their own unique challenges. In a full-blown disaster, we must temporarily make our way through both living and work conditions that make even the most routine activities more difficult.

Because communities rely on heavy equipment operators to remove debris piles, you should also consider the presence of overhead power lines and the clearances needed to safely lift and remove the items. Take into consideration guy-wires and poles as well.

Can we vent?

Dryer fires are avoidable

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), clothes dryers cause approximately 12,000 fires a year. Fortunately, there are steps you can take to prevent them.

Mechanical and electrical failure

Like anything with moving parts and electronic components, faulty wiring and damaged machinery can potentially cause dryer fires. For this reason, it is important to have these parts checked and repaired or replaced if necessary.

Improper dryer use

Using a clothes dryer outside of the manufacturer's recommended guidelines, like over-stuffing the appliance, can result in a fire. The NFPA found that 6% of dryer fires occur when the heat source is too close to combustibles or other flammable materials. In general, items made of plastic, rubber, and foam are not suited for clothes dryers.

Clogged lint filters and vents

This category represents the leading cause of dryer fires. It is also the easiest hazard to manage.

- Clean the lint filter after every load. A dirty lint screen can lead to 30% more energy usage and can be a fire hazard.
- You can also perform deeper cleaning of the lint trap every 6 months or as needed, in which you clean it with a nylon brush, detergent and water to remove any residue from fabric softener or stuck-on lint.
- Occasionally use the attachments on your vacuum cleaner to remove lint that falls off of the lint filter and in the filter enclosure.
- Occasionally clean the duct work that vents your dryer. The filter does not catch all the lint and can build up in the duct work. This build-up decreases the efficiency of your dryer by requiring longer run times and can become a fire hazard.
- Make sure your dryer is vented properly vented to the outdoors and not into a crawlspace or attic.. Use the straightest and shortest metal duct available. Flexible vinyl duct is not recommended because it restricts airflow, can be crushed, and may not withstand the dryer's high temperatures.
- If your dryer has a moisture sensor that shuts off the dryer when the clothes are dry—use it.



Message to members

Five years post-Florence

by **PAUL SPRUILL**

GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We are just a few weeks away from the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Florence. Even now to look at the timeline of events seems daunting. Due to the damage and loss of life in the Carolinas, the name Florence was retired from the Atlantic rotating naming lists by the World Meteorological Organization in 2019. But that doesn't retire it from memory.

Storm surge along the Neuse River reached heights of 8 to 11 feet, compounded by an additional 16 inches of rainfall. The hurricane spawned 27 tornadoes in our state. Over 1 million North Carolinians lost power, including 17,644 Tideland members. As flood waters receded, Tideland mobilized its largest restoration workforce in the co-op's history totaling 133 men and women from five states. Over the course of nine days, co-op crews and contractors braved the elements and a landscape that resembled a war zone until every possible service that could be



Our Grantsboro office on Sept. 15, 2018

energized was up and running. The price tag to the co-op was well over a million dollars and we remain grateful for the federal funding that helped us offset most of those expenses rather than pass them along to our members.

Today you would be hard pressed to see any evidence of Hurricane Florence as you drive through Tideland territory. Our communities proved to be resilient and in many ways the storm breathed new life into Fairfield Harbour and the surrounding area. Hope was no doubt difficult to find it in the immediate aftermath of Florence but in the weeks, months and years that followed it was there to be found.

We hope you, your family, your business and our communities are better prepared today due to the lessons of hurricanes past. You can rest assured, your electric cooperative is.

Rights-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim vegetative growth in our rights-of-way.

During September, Lucas crews will be trimming out the Lowland circuit before moving onto the Craven County circuit.

Our contract construction crews with Lee Electrical will continue their work in Swan Quarter.

Osmose pole inspections will be wrapping up for the year as they complete work on the three circuits out of our Five Points substation: Braddy Road, Duck Creek and Howell's Mill.

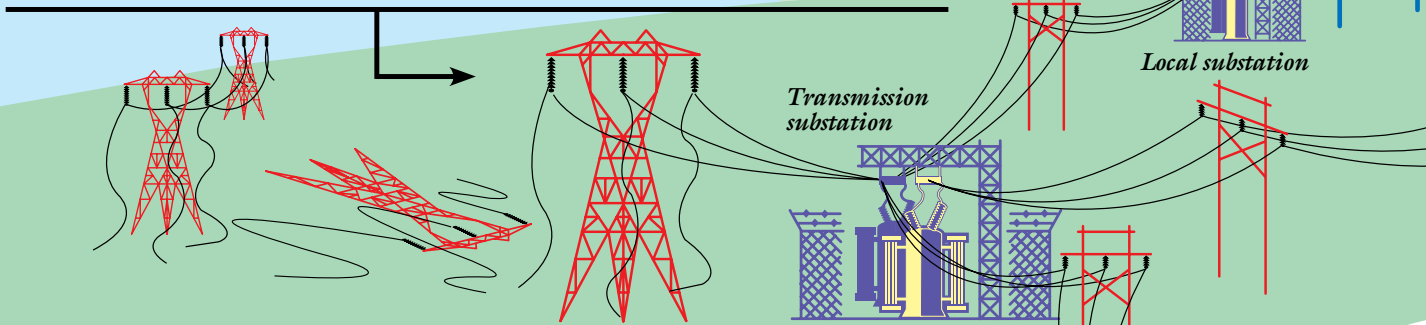
We are aware of social media posts promoting the installation of signage on utility poles. Our attempts to reach out to the originator of the posts did not garner a response. Please be aware that it is against NC law to post any item on a utility pole regardless of the method used to attach the item.

This is not just for your safety, but for the safety of utility workers who may be required to climb the pole. It is also about preserving the lifespan of the pole itself by preventing rot and splintering.

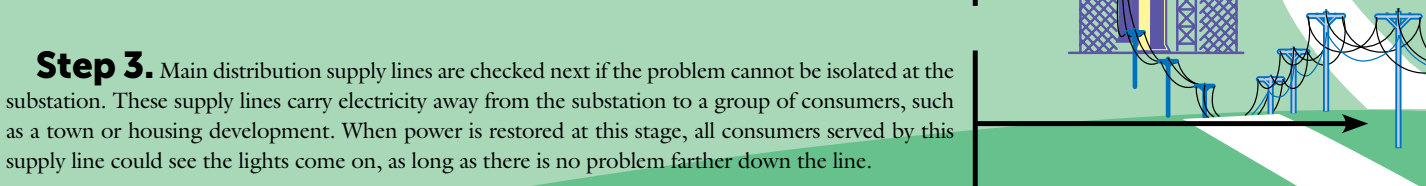


The steps to restoring power

Step 1. Transmission towers and lines supply power to one or more transmission substations. These lines seldom fail, but they can be damaged by a hurricane, tornado or excessive ice loading. Tens of thousands of people could be served by one high-voltage transmission line, so if there is damage here it gets attention first.



Step 2. A co-op may have several local distribution substations, each serving thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, the local distribution substations are checked first. A problem here could be caused by failure in the transmission system supplying the substation. If the problem can be corrected at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of people.



Step 3. Main distribution supply lines are checked next if the problem cannot be isolated at the substation. These supply lines carry electricity away from the substation to a group of consumers, such as a town or housing development. When power is restored at this stage, all consumers served by this supply line could see the lights come on, as long as there is no problem farther down the line.

Hurricanes and ice storms. Tornadoes and blizzards. Electric cooperative members have seen them all. And with such severe weather comes power outages. Restoring power after a major outage is a big job that involves much more than simply throwing a switch or removing a tree from a line.

The main goal is to restore power safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible.

The major cause of outages is damage caused by fallen trees. That's why your electric cooperative has an ongoing right-of-way maintenance program.

This illustration explains how power typically is restored after a major disaster.

Area enlarged: Consumers themselves (not the co-op) are responsible for damage to the service installation on the building. Your co-op can't fix anything beyond this point. Call a licensed electrician.

Step 5. Sometimes, damage will occur on the service line between your house and the transformer on the nearby pole. This can explain why you have no power when your neighbor does. Your co-op needs to know you have an outage here, so a service crew can repair it.

During a major outage, other cooperatives send line crews to assist with restoring power. These additional crews, as well as communications, equipment and supplies, are coordinated through the cooperatives' statewide organization.

Report your outage to the cooperative office. Employees or response services use every available phone line to receive your outage reports. Remember that a major outage can affect thousands of other members. Your cooperative appreciates your patience.

If you or a family member depend on life support, call your cooperative before an emergency arises.

Step 4. The final supply lines, called tap lines, carry power to the utility poles or underground transformers outside houses or other buildings. Line crews fix the remaining outages based on restoring service to the greatest number of consumers.

DANGER!
Stay clear of fallen lines



A Tri-State Energy Cooperative

Tideland EMC

Real People. Real Power.

2023 ANNUAL YOUTH TOUR

WITH HEATHER ROGERS

Washington DC
JUNE 18-23 2023





Being able to go on the Youth Tour was an experience of a lifetime. I was able to make lifelong memories and friendships. It gave me an opportunity to not only learn about Washington, D.C., but it also gave me an opportunity to meet people from all over. During the trip we were able to view many different memorials and monuments as well as tour different museums and landmarks.

Continues on page H



K-12 Classroom Teachers

Real People.
Real Power.

Bright Ideas application deadline is Sept. 15

Tideland is partnering with outstanding educators to bring creative learning to life! Starting this month, teachers can apply for a Bright Ideas education grant of up to \$2,500 to fund projects that enhance student success in K-12 classrooms and would otherwise not be possible.

Applications and more information about the program can be found at atncbrightideas.com. Grants are available in all curriculum areas including art, science, history and

mathematics. Tideland will provide over \$13,000 in total funding during the 2023-2024 school year. Bright Ideas grant applications will be accepted through Sept. 15.

Supported by all 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, Bright Ideas grants have contributed \$15 million to N.C. classrooms, funding a total of 14,200 projects that have benefited well over 3.5 million students statewide since 1994.

Youth Tour Continued from Pages F & G

When I first received notice that I would be able to attend, I was beyond excited and my expectations were exceeded during the trip. All of the advisors and leaders made sure we got to experience the most we could during the week. They made sure we were able to learn and understand different parts of history and how it affected our country. Everyone who went on the tour was able to see something new, even if they had already been before.



Our week in Washington, D.C., was busy but we were able to get to know each other, as well as people from different states. During the tour we visited the Washington Monument, Abraham Lincoln Memorial, George Washington Memorial, as well as attend a Nationals vs. Cardinals baseball game! We were also able to tour different Smithsonian Museums and walk around the National Mall! I was and will forever be grateful for the opportunity to experience the Youth Tour and create lifelong memories.

To high school sophomores and juniors, I highly encourage you to apply for the 2024 Youth Tour. Thank you to North Carolina's electric cooperatives for continuing to organize this event annually and

to Tideland EMC for selecting me to participate in this wonderful opportunity.

Heather Elizabeth Rogers is the daughter of LeAnne Rogers and the granddaughter of Al and Kathy Markuson. She is a senior at the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience (NERBSA) and resides in Plymouth.

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

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Tideland EMC is an equal opportunity provider & employer



Labor Day Closing

Our offices will be closed Monday, September 4 for the Labor Day holiday.

To report an outage, call 800-882-1001 or text OUT to short code 85700. For 24-hour member service call 800-637-1079.

Please celebrate safely!